THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions of 13.12.2006, minimum of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are to be sanctioned and operationalized in a phased manner by December, 2008. It takes about one year from the date of sanction, for an Anganwadi Centre (AWC) to become operational. As on 31.03.2007, out of 10.53 lakh sanctioned AWCs, 8 45 lakh AWCs are fully functional. The reasons for the backlog are State specific and include delays in appointment of AWW's and AWH's, court cases etc.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court in its Order of 9th July, 2007 directed all the States to operationalize the AWCs sanctioned upto September, 2006, by 15th July, 2007 with the exception of the State of Uttar Pradesh, who were directed to operationalize the AWCs by 31st July, 2007.

Following the directions, the States/UTs were addressed on 10.7.2007 to strictly adhere to the time-frame laid down by the Apex Court.

Guidelines to protect rights of Children

272. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has come out with detailed guidelines to protect and promote the rights of children following the killing of children in Nithari and constituted a five member committee to formulate guidelines to deal with the cases of missing children in an effective and meaningful manner;

(b) whether the committee has already submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the recommendations thereof; and

(e) by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) A copy of the gist of the report alongwith recommendations is available at the website of the National Human Rights Commission at www.nhrc.nic.in.

(e) The recommendations of the Report relate to several Ministries which are individually taking appropriate action. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 for protection of children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. The Ministry is also implementing a programme for Juvenile Justice for establishment, upgradation and maintenance of various levels of institutions for juveniles. Child Line, a 24 hour emergency phone service is available for children in need of care and protection in emergency situations. In addition, the Ministry is also implementing a Scheme for welfare of working children in need of care and protection to provide non-formal education and vocational training.

Rehabilitation of children

273. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has urged the Chief Ministers of all the States seeking a follow-up report on the measures taken for rehabilitation of the children affected by the Ministry of Labour's ban on employment of children, issued in October, 2006;

(b) if so, whether enforcement of the ban has laid off a large number of children who now require rehabilitation and assistance, especially in big cities;

(c) whether the State Governments have already submitted the lists to Government, and

(d) whether her Ministry is satisfied with the rehabilitation plan being implemented in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India held consultations with the State Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and other stakeholders at various zonal conferences during which the action plans of the State Governments were discussed for effective implementation of the Notification and for rehabilitation of affected children. Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project [NCLP] in 250 districts of 20 States in the country under which children withdrawn from work are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and health care etc., and are finally mainstreamed to regular education system thus providing for their over all rehabilitation.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Scheme for Working Children in Need of Care and Protection under which working children are provided non formal eduation, vocational training, to working children to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended any learning system or where their education has been discontinued, with a view to preventing their continued future exploitation.

Non-operational Aganwadi Centres

274. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) sanctioned under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) are not made operational by State Governments;

(b) if so, the number of sanctioned AWCs made operational so far, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in making the sanctioned AWCs operational;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has again issued stern warning to the States for failing to operationalise the sanctioned AWCs and has asked to clear the backlog by July 15, 2007; and

(e) if so, the details and measures taken by Government to ensure that the sanctioned AWCs are made operational and functional by the State Governments?